

In the Claims:

A complete listing of claims in the instant application is provided below as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A reloadable launcher for use with rocket-propelled projectiles, comprising:

an inner tube and an outer tube fixedly coupled to one another to define a concentric tube arrangement with at least one gas flow channel being defined therebetween, said inner tube ~~being capable of~~ supporting a launch of a rocket-propelled projectile therefrom wherein gases produced during the launch are directed toward and escape from a breech end of said inner tube while the projectile is propelled towards a muzzle end of said inner tube;

a ring fixedly coupled to a first end of said outer tube that is adjacent to said breech end of said inner tube, said ring defining a keyway and an annular channel between said keyway and said first end of said outer tube;

a cap having a concave inner surface, said cap terminating in a peripheral edge that defines a key shaped for passage through said keyway of said ring wherein, when said concave inner surface faces said breech end and said key is aligned with and moved axially through said keyway, said

key resides in said annular channel adjacent said first end of said outer tube, said cap further having a central portion thereof that is aligned with a central longitudinal axis of said inner tube when said key resides in said annular channel; and

a link hingedly coupled on one end thereof to said ring to permit said cap to be moved such that ~~[[a]]~~ the projectile can be loaded into said inner tube from said breech end thereof, said link further being rotationally coupled to said cap at said central portion thereof such that said cap can be rotated about said central portion wherein, when said key resides in said annular channel and said cap is rotated about said central portion, said key is misaligned with said keyway wherein said cap is axially locked to said outer tube.

2. (Original) A reloadable launcher as in claim 1 wherein said keyway is defined by a plurality of spaced apart radially extending slots and said key is defined by a corresponding plurality of spaced apart radially extending projections sized and shaped for passage through said plurality of spaced apart radially extending slots.

3. (Original) A reloadable launcher as in claim 1 wherein an inner periphery of said outer tube at said first end thereof aligns with said cap when said key resides in said annular channel such that said inner periphery is contiguous with said concave inner surface of said cap.

4. (Original) A reloadable launcher as in claim 1 wherein said concave inner surface of said cap is semi-spherical.

5. (Original) A reloadable launcher as in claim 1 wherein said concave inner surface of said cap is hemispherical.

6. (Currently amended) A reloadable launcher for use with rocket-propelled projectiles, comprising:

a concentric canister launch tube arrangement having an inner tube fixedly coupled to an outer tube with open-ended gas flow ducts being defined therebetween and along the length thereof, said inner tube ~~being capable of~~ supporting a launch of a rocket-propelled projectile therefrom wherein gases produced during the launch are directed toward and escape from a breech end of said inner tube while the projectile is propelled towards a muzzle end of said inner tube;

a ring fixedly coupled to a first end of said outer tube that is aligned with said breech end of said inner tube, said ring extending axially from said outer tube, said ring defining a keyway and an annular channel between said keyway and said first end of said outer tube;

a hemispherical cap terminating in a peripheral edge that defines a key shaped for passage through said keyway of said ring wherein, when said key is aligned with and moved axially through said keyway, said key resides in said annular channel adjacent said first end of said outer tube; and

means for coupling said hemispherical cap to said ring

to permit said hemispherical cap to be (i) moved such that [[a]] the projectile can be loaded into said inner tube from said breech end thereof, and (ii) rotated when said key resides in said annular channel to misalign said key and said keyway thereby axially locking said hemispherical cap to said outer tube, wherein said gases produced by the launch are re-directed by said hemispherical cap towards said open-ended gas flow ducts.

7. (Original) A reloadable launcher as in claim 6 wherein said keyway is defined by a plurality of spaced apart radially extending slots and said key is defined by a corresponding plurality of spaced apart radially extending projections sized and shaped for passage through said plurality of spaced apart radially extending slots.

8. (Original) A reloadable launcher as in claim 6 wherein an inner periphery of said outer tube at said first end thereof aligns with said hemispherical cap when said key resides in said annular channel such that said inner periphery is contiguous with said hemispherical cap.

9. (Currently amended) A reloadable launcher for use in an arrayed arrangement of reloadable launchers where each said reloadable launcher ~~is capable of firing~~ fires a rocket-propelled projectile therefrom, each said reloadable launcher comprising:

a concentric canister launch tube arrangement having an inner tube fixedly coupled to an outer tube with open-ended gas flow ducts being defined therebetween and along the length thereof, said inner tube ~~being capable of~~ supporting a launch of ~~the~~ the rocket-propelled projectile therefrom wherein gases produced during the launch are directed toward and escape from a breech end of said inner tube while the projectile is propelled towards a muzzle end of said inner tube;

a ring fixedly coupled to a first end of said outer tube that is aligned with said breech end of said inner tube, said ring extending axially from said outer tube, said ring having a keyway and an annular channel between said keyway and said first end of said outer tube, said ring further defining at least one support extending radially outward therefrom wherein said at least one support can be used as a point of coupling to another ring associated with an adjacent

one of the reloadable launchers in the arrayed arrangement thereof;

a hemispherical cap terminating in a peripheral edge that defines a key shaped for passage through said keyway of said ring wherein, when said key is aligned with and moved axially through said keyway, said key resides in said annular channel adjacent said first end of said outer tube; and

means for coupling said hemispherical cap to said ring to permit said hemispherical cap to be (i) moved such that ~~a~~ the projectile can be loaded into said inner tube from said breech end thereof, and (ii) rotated when said key resides in said annular channel to misalign said key and said keyway thereby axially locking said hemispherical cap to said outer tube, wherein said gases produced by the launch are re-directed by said hemispherical cap towards said open-ended gas flow ducts.

10. (Original) A reloadable launcher as in claim 9 wherein said keyway is defined by a plurality of spaced apart radially extending slots and said key is defined by a corresponding plurality of spaced apart radially extending projections sized and shaped for passage through said

plurality of spaced apart radially extending slots.

11. (Original) A reloadable launcher as in claim 9 wherein an inner periphery of said outer tube at said first end thereof aligns with said hemispherical cap when said key resides in said annular channel such that said inner periphery is contiguous with said hemispherical cap.